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LETTER DATED 17 APRIL 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to present to you the attached letter, dated today, from my Prime Minister to Your Excellency.

May I ask for you kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Muhamed SACIRBEY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 17 April 1994 from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina addressed to the President of the Security Council

The "safe area" of Gorazde is now under its twentieth day of attack from aggressor forces, using infantry and artillery brought in from Serbia and Montenegro. Aggressor forces have occupied a large area of the "safe area", overrunning and razing 21 suburbs around Gorazde. In the centre of the city, there are 230 slain persons, and roughly another 800 that have been injured. Civilian structures in the centre of the city have been destroyed by the array of weaponry which the Serbian aggressor possesses. The lives of tens of thousands of civilians are threatened by murder and hunger.

The United Nations and its representative authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina have not employed the mandate or fulfilled the responsibility given to them under Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993). As such, the population who has been deprived of the right of self-defence, remains exposed. We ask of those that are responsible for these decisions, to address the events that have taken place.

1. We request that the Security Council take the appropriate measures under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations to employ force in halting the Serbian aggression against Gorazde. We emphasize that this is an aggression from Serbia and Montenegro continuing already for two years.

2. We urgently request the establishment of an exclusion zone for Gorazde, to include and go beyond the 30 March "safe area" demarcation line, providing for the withdrawal of aggressor troops and their weaponry.

Excellency, in question are tens of thousands of civilians who, along with the rest of the free world, are awaiting the Security Council to fulfil its obligations.

(Signed) Haris SILAJDZIC
Prime Minister